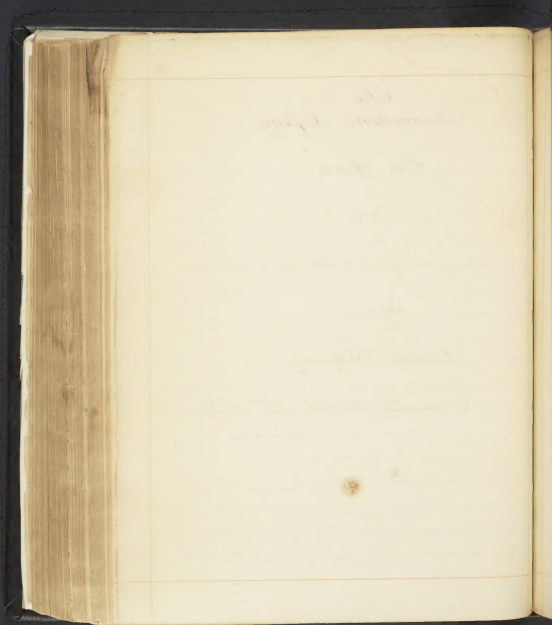


An
Inaugural Essay
On Fever
for the
Degree of Doctor of Medicine
by
Charles Ridgway
Eleventh Month 28th 1923



Preface

The following observations on a dangerous
form of fever which prevailed at Bushkill
Pike vicinity Penna in the Winter 1812 & 19
Are diffidently and most respectfully
submitted to the consideration of the
Medical faculty in the hope that the
humble effort of the Author to comply
with a salutary Law of the University
will meet with their kind indulgence.

1841

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been admitted to the membership of the Society since the last meeting. The names are given in alphabetical order, and the date of admission is given in parentheses. The names are given in full, and the date of admission is given in full. The names are given in full, and the date of admission is given in full.

An account of an Epidemic fever which prevailed in the neighbourhood of Bushkill Pike county Penna in the Winter of 1818 & 19

Bushkill is situated on the western margin of the River Delaware. the opposite side of the River is bounded by a high Mountain called the blue ridge — about a mile back from the River on the Penna side there is a long range of Hills which run parallel with the River — the River and adjacent streams are rapid — there is no marsh or swampy ground in the neighbourhood and the situation has generally been considered a healthy one. There are about twenty Houses which compose the neighbourhood known by the name of Bushkill they stand within the circumference of a mile.

Case 1st

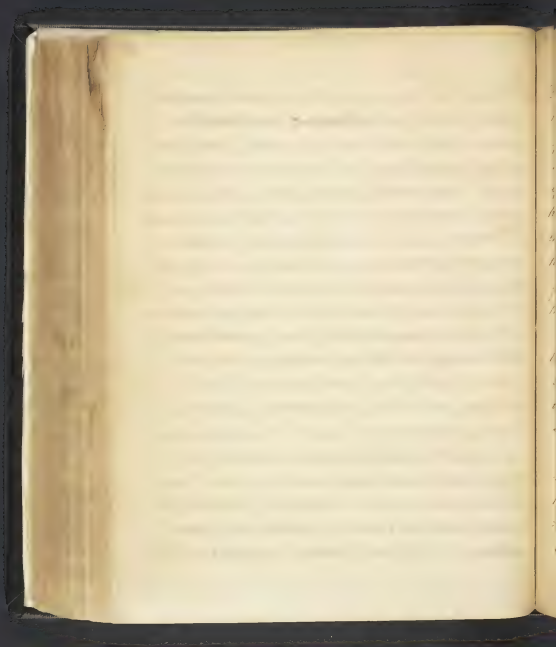
I was called on the 2^d of the twelfth month
 (December) 1819 to see James Smith found him
 in such a state of delirium that he could not
 give a history of his case. — his Mother told
 me that he complained for the last thirty
 six hours of pain in all his bones and occasion-
 ally he would say that he felt a shooting
 pain in his Head and sick at his Stomach
 and that about two hours before I saw him
 he became much worse — He had at this
 time a hot skin a full and somewhat tense
 pulse great depression of muscular strength
 his Eyes were full heavy and a little inflamed
 his tongue was covered with a white
 viscid mucus and the carotids were throbbing
 violently — he had great thirst and
 called every few minutes for more cold
 water which had been given to him
 without any limits — I observed that every

drink of cold water which he took appeared to make his respiration more difficult and that he was more restless directly after drinking— Therefore ordered him to drink warm - *Nepeta Cataracta* tea instead of cold water— but in consequence of my not being able to obtain any febrifuge on that day I prescribed nothing else.

Having obtained some febrifuge medicine called to see him found all his symptoms in a more aggravated form— gave him an Emetic of ~~tartar~~ emetic 14 Gr which brought away a great deal of bile and all his symptoms appeared to be in some degree relieved.

I prepared a saline mixture by adding Subcarbonat of Potash to Vinegar until it ceased to effervesce ordered him to take a large spoonful of this once in three hours until there was an exacerbation of fever. then take it once an hour and continue to drink freely of the *Nepeta Cataracta* tea

5th Found his tongue dry brown, and tremulous
 pulse small and frequent, and that his
 bowels had not been evacuated for the last
 twenty four hours. gave him Cal. & Salop each
 ten gr. ordered the saline mixture and warm
 drinks continued after the cathartic had operated
 6th Found that the cathartic had operated
 promptly without any material advantage to
 the morbid symptoms. ordered the saline mix-
 ture and frequent drinks of warm caltrop tea continued.
 7th He had drank about a pint of cold water
 last evening at the exacerbation of the fever
 and soon after became quite delirious, the fur on
 his tongue look thicker and darker, cannot per-
 ceive any alteration in his pulse - his skin remains
 dry - slight twitching which he had the first
 time I saw him we now much increased. order-
 ed him to have no more cold water but drink the
 Sipeta Catana tea warm - continue the saline
 mixture - left some powders composed of Opium

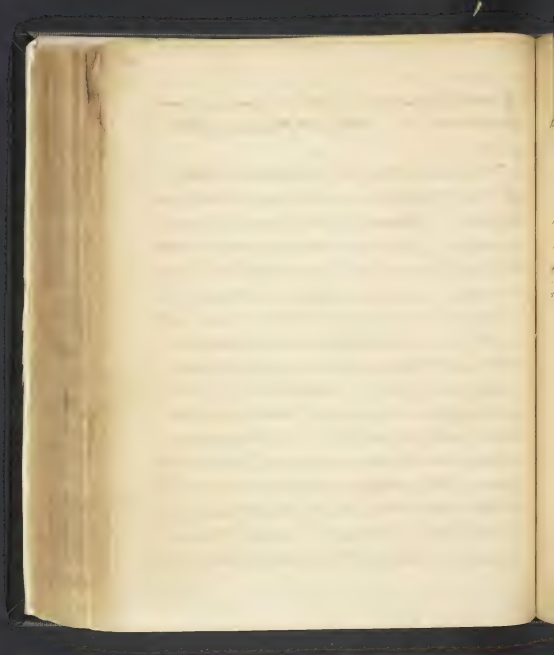


Ipecac & Camphor of each one grain, ordered him to take one of these at the rise of the fever

9th Lies more tranquil, supposed to be the effect of the sudorific powder no alteration in his pulse. Tongue, & teeth appear to be more moistened. picks his nail and the sides of his hands remain open has about three stools per day — same medicine continued.

11th Cannot perceive any alteration since last visit continued the same medicine.

13th Has not taken his medicine for the last twenty four hours — appears to be almost in a state of insensibility pulse continues small and frequent. Ordered sinapisms of mustard to his feet which appeared to remove the stupor in about half an hour he then said that he would not again refuse to take his medicine — ordered the same continued and if the stupor come on again

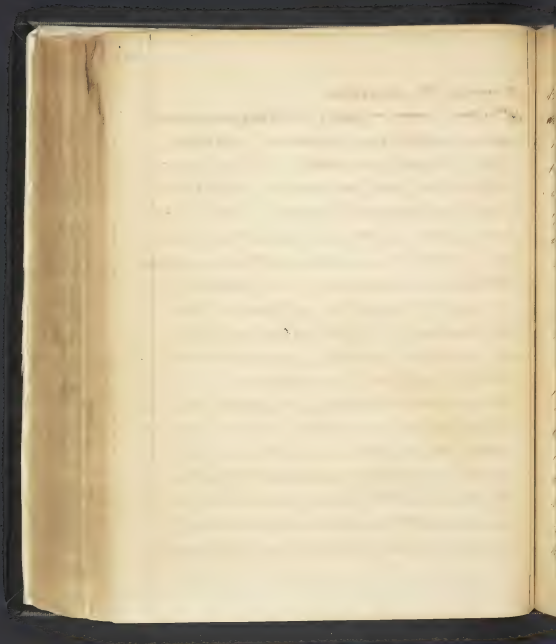


to apply the sinapisms

14th Suffer came on again yesterday sinapisms again applied and produced obvious relief. Tongue and teeth continue coated with a black fur - so much so that he can hardly articulate his words - but this is to day for the first some moisture on his upper extremities - continued the same medicines

15th The last maculation terminated in a moderate desquamation diffused all over the surface. He does not pick the bed clothes so much - appears to have a more rational countenance.

These last mentioned symptoms went on increasing under the same treatment until the 23^d when he had a very profuse perspiration and next day his teeth & mouth became almost clean on the 25th I ordered him to drink a pint of strong decoction of Logwood



Born daily, on the 3rd he was able to walk about the room and his appetite knew no bounds. on the 2^d of the 1st month (January) he was a complete maniac talked and sung from morning until night and if the family did not give him victuals when he wanted it he was furious. he would not take any medicines. and the family did not keep the victuals from him. he continued in this troublesome state until the 9th when he was attacked with cholera and was willing to take medicines I gave him Colomel ʒss Saltp^r ten grains each Tartar Emetic ʒss this brought on an artificial cholera morbus. after the operation his Intellects were rational and remained to be so. his convalescence was rapid from this time. This man lived in a family composed of his Mother a Sister and six Brothers - between the 20th of the 12th Month

1844

1. The first part of the book is devoted to a general history of the country, from the earliest times to the present day. It is written in a clear and concise style, and is well illustrated with maps and diagrams.

2. The second part of the book is devoted to a description of the natural history of the country. It is written in a clear and concise style, and is well illustrated with maps and diagrams.

3. The third part of the book is devoted to a description of the political history of the country. It is written in a clear and concise style, and is well illustrated with maps and diagrams.

4. The fourth part of the book is devoted to a description of the social history of the country. It is written in a clear and concise style, and is well illustrated with maps and diagrams.

5. The fifth part of the book is devoted to a description of the economic history of the country. It is written in a clear and concise style, and is well illustrated with maps and diagrams.

6. The sixth part of the book is devoted to a description of the religious history of the country. It is written in a clear and concise style, and is well illustrated with maps and diagrams.

7. The seventh part of the book is devoted to a description of the literary history of the country. It is written in a clear and concise style, and is well illustrated with maps and diagrams.

8. The eighth part of the book is devoted to a description of the scientific history of the country. It is written in a clear and concise style, and is well illustrated with maps and diagrams.

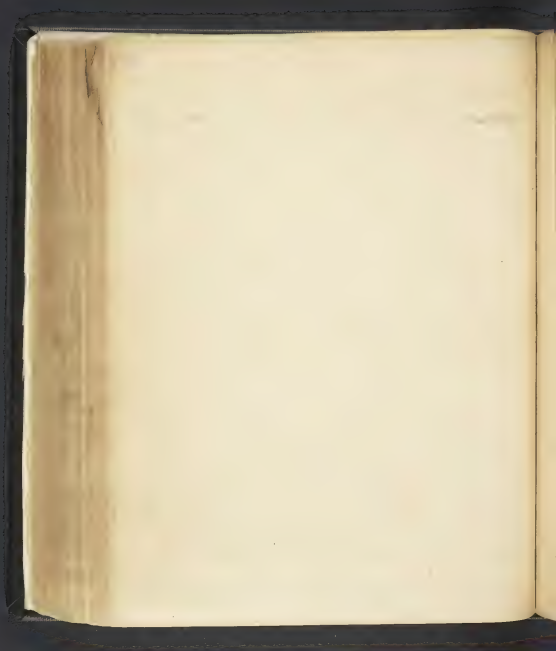
9. The ninth part of the book is devoted to a description of the artistic history of the country. It is written in a clear and concise style, and is well illustrated with maps and diagrams.

10. The tenth part of the book is devoted to a description of the military history of the country. It is written in a clear and concise style, and is well illustrated with maps and diagrams.

(December) and the 15th of the 2^d Month
 February. five of the brothers were attacked
 with the disease four of their cases were
 very similar to the one just described the
 same treatment was instituted and the febrile
 symptoms quitted about the 21st day -
 the other case there was no difference in
 the attack, pain in the Head nausea pro-
 stration of strength chills and flushes were
 all present - but after the operation of a
 powerful Cathartic of Calomel & Salap
 all these symptoms disappeared.

(case 2)

I was called on the 12th of the 12th month
 (December) to Catherine Barton aged seven
 years whose Father and Mother had both
 died a few days since with fever - I found
 that she had been attacked on the 7th from
 the 7th was confined to her bed but declined



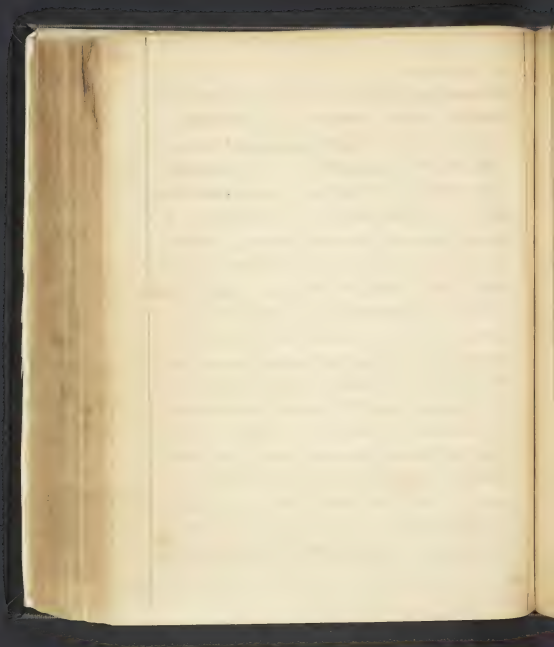
having any motion and ... saying that it
 never did her Father's Mother any good
 and that she had rather trust to nature.
 She was now in a comatose state with a
 brown dry tongue pulse small and about
 one hundred in a minute. I ascertained
 that she had taken nothing to cleanse
 her stomach & intestines and with some
 difficulty we managed to get her to
 take Calomel $\frac{v}{16}$ Grs Salapex Grs it operated
 in about six hours the evacuations came
 away involuntarily Stupor increased
 and we could not get her to take medicines
 or nourishment. She died in about
 sixty hours after I first saw her.
 This case goes to shew how the disease
 terminated when left to nature.

(Case 3)

I was called on the 5th of the 11th Moth
 (January) 1819 to Simeon Swartwood



a man of plethoric habit, found him
 with a robust frame on his left side
 but skin full and frequent pulse
 difficult respiration. I immediately
 drew 15℔ of blood from his arm which
 gave him great relief. ordered him to
 drink flaxseed tea with a view to relieve
 the cough, and to take the saline mix-
 ture with a view to determine to the surface
 5th all the thoracic symptoms have
 again appeared - took 15℔ more blood
 which gave immediate relief continue
 the saline mixture & flaxseed tea
 7th Day he feels the pain in his side
 at intervals - took 10℔ more blood and
 put a blister over the pain, after the
 blister drew the pain in his side was
 entirely removed and other symptoms better
 9th His disease has now assumed the
 confirmed stage of the, prevailing fever

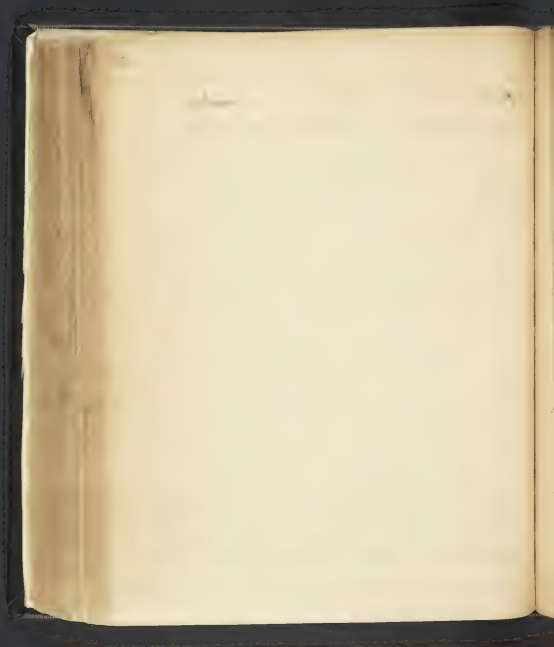


Tongue dry and brown pulse small and frequent gave him a dose of calomel followed by the saline mixture warm drinks and the sudorific powder at the rise of the fever — This treatment was continued until the 25 when a free perspiration appeared and the febrile symptoms disappeared, the Cornu Florida bark was now prescribed as in case first and his convalescence was rapid.

There was in this case almost a constant delirium and frequent picking up of the bed clothes — sinapisms of mustard were frequently applied to the lower extremities with a view to relieve these affections and they always appeared to afford a temporary relief — I have been unable to make up my mind whether this case was originally an attack of Pleuritis and compelled by the laws of epidemics to wear its living or



whether it was the epidemic fever making
 its appearance in a more congestive form.
 This man's family was composed of his
 wife and five children aged 11, 9, 7, 4,
 & 1st year. The five youngest were all
 attacked between the 9th & 28th of the same
 month and had the disease in a malig-
 nant form. It did not come to a crisis
 in either case in less than twenty one days,
 and the one aged seven, was unable to artic-
 ulate one word for nine days owing to the
 fur on the tongue & teeth. Their treat-
 ment was the same as case 1st and they
 all got well. There were twenty seven
 cases of this disease came under my care
 twenty five of which recovered - two died
 one of which has been mentioned - the
 other was a boy who had been prostrated
 six days with the fever before I was
 called to him he died on the 10th day from his attack.



six of these cases appeared to be cut short they yielded in from five to ten days, the others did not yield until the 10th, 21st, or 30th day. — There were four more cases in the neighbourhood (treated by two Physicians) all of which died. The symptoms in every case of those which came under my care (except case 3^d) very much resembled those of case 1st and the same treatment was adopted. I frequently had occasion to observe, that when the Patients became weary of taking the acetate of potash and the *Infusa Catanea* tea as often as I directed. — that their tongues would become more dry and the general condition of the patient worse, so that they were glad to recur to it again. Perhaps the question may be asked, as the fever run such a protracted course, why I did not adopt some other plan of treatment.



with a view to cut it short. My answer is that I had once seen a case of low fever terminate favourably under this plan of treatment. Therefore when I consented to prescribe to case 1st I resolved to try this course - and although the case had a very gloomy appearance for a considerable time. I was afraid to change the treatment for that which I had not seen put in practice. finding at length that the case was likely to do well I pursued the same plan of treatment in every case.

I prescribed the Sal. Diureticus and warm diluent drinks in the liberal manner before stated - with no other view than to obtain a sudorific effect - and although I soon observed that there was a remarkable diuresis I did not suspect at that time that it had any agency in blunting the violence of the

disease, or of assisting nature in overcoming the morbid action. But my subsequent instruction has led me to suspect that it was the principal cause of my success in that malignant epidemic and that they are (Lincton) a valuable class of remedies in that state of febrile disease where direct depletion is inadmissible. In support of this opinion I may mention the well known fact that the Kidneys are emunctories through which nature endeavours to relieve herself when oppressed by disordered action.

The epidemic first made its appearance in the fore part of the 11th Month (November) and ended about the 20th of the 3^d Month (February) and was confined to that small district while the adjacent neighbourhoods were quite healthy.

